

## Message Text

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22

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY:JKB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL GENOA BY POUCH

AMCONSUL PALERMO BY POUCH

AMCONSUL TRIESTE BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268233

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: L'EUROPEO INTERVIEW BY DE CAROLIS

REF: ROME 17362; ROME 17539

1. L'EUROPEO PRESENTATION OF THE DE CAROLIS INTERVIEW CONTAINS SOME DISTORTION OF US POLICY AND APPARENT MISREPRESENTATIONS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. DEPARTMENT ALSO NOTES THAT DE CAROLIS FAILED TO ABIDE BY HIS OWN UNDERTAKING NOT TO PUBLICIZE WHAT WAS SAID TO HIM OR TO THE JOURNALIST (STERPA) ACCOMPANYING HIM.

2. THE FOCUS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH DE CAROLIS WAS THE REFORM OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. WE TOLD DE CAROLIS BLUNTLY HOW ESSENTIAL THIS REFORM IS, ADDING OUR IMPRESSION THAT MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE. WE ASKED ABOUT ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES IN THE PARTY AND STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR A BETTER PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT  
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IN ITALY, IN THE US AND IN EUROPE. DE CAROLIS AGREED THAT

LITTLE OF CONSEQUENCE HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED UP TO NOW. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD AGNELLI'S HILTON MEETING, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS MUCH AS STATED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF ROME 17539, I.E., THAT THE HILTON GROUP WAS TOO LARGE, TOO AMORPHOUS AND TOO "MANAGEMENT" TO BE EFFECTIVE. OUR DELIBERATE DIRECTNESS PROBABLY

DID CONVEY DOUBT ABOUT THE SINCERITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF DC REFORM MEASURES TO DATE, BUT UNDERLYING IT WAS AN INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR THE PARTY, WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS.

3. THE QUESTION OF THE PSI WAS TERTIARY. DEPTOFFS CONFIRMED OUR BELIEF THAT THE RESTORATION OF A MODERATE SOCIALIST PARTY LIKE THOSE IN OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD STRENGTHEN THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN ITALY AND WE ASKED DE CAROLIS FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF CRAXI'S CHANCES. WE DID NOT RPT NOT SINGLE OUT CRAXI AS BEING PERSONALLY OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE US GOVERNMENT. IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT DE CAROLIS' ACADEMIC CONTACTS WENT MUCH FARTHER ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. WHEN ASKED AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO LIST THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO HIS VARIOUS AMERICAN INTERLOCUTORS, DE CAROLIS SAID "THE PCI, DC REFORM, AND BETTINO CRAXI." IN SPEAKING OF CRAXI, DE CAROLIS GAVE AN OPINION CONSIDERABLY AT VARIANCE WITH THAT REPORTED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF ROME 17539. DE CAROLIS IN FACT DISMISSED CRAXI AS BEING "UNDER THE THUMB OF MANCINI" AND LET IT BE KNOWN HE THOUGHT THE PSI HAS LITTLE FUTURE.

5. DEPARTMENT HAS NO IDEA WHERE DE CAROLIS MIGHT HAVE HEARD THAT WE HAD "FULL ACCESS TO INTERNAL PCI DOCUMENTS", NOR DO WE KNOW WHAT HE WAS REFERRING TO. TAKEN LITERALLY, HIS STATEMENT IS, UNFORTUNATELY, TOTALLY UNTRUE.

6. EMBASSY OR MILAN MAY USE THE FOREGOING OBSERVATIONS IN ANY FUTURE TALKS WITH DE CAROLIS. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: STATE 268233 POUCHED TO FLORENCE, GENOA,  
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PALERMO AND TRIESTE.

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** ROME MILAN NAPLES  
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